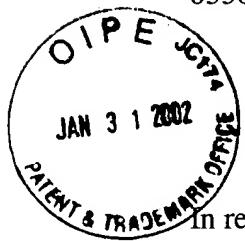


03500.014646

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re Application of:

TAKEHIKO NAKAI

Application No.: 09/626,738

Filed: July 26, 2000

For: DIFFRACTION OPTICAL
ELEMENT

)
:
Examiner: A. Amari
)
:
Group Art Unit: 2872
)
:
January 31, 2002

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

#71A
Amari
J. McMillan
2/4/02

RECEIVED

FEB - 4 2002

TC 2800 MAIL ROOM

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 7-11 and 13-15, as follows. A marked-up copy of those claims, showing the changes made thereto, is attached. For the Examiner's convenience, all of the claims currently under consideration are provided below.

Sub 17
A 1
7. (Amended) A diffraction optical element in which a plurality of diffraction gratings are laminated, comprising: